

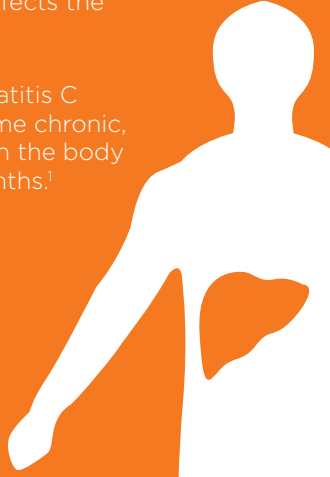
Hepatitis C fact sheet



What is hepatitis C?

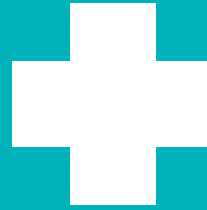
Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus that predominantly infects the cells of liver.

Up to 85% of all hepatitis C virus infections become chronic, meaning the virus is in the body for more than six months.¹



Chronic hepatitis C can cause²:

- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Liver failure
- Liver cancer



How is hepatitis C spread?

Hepatitis C is spread via blood-to-blood contact.



How common is hepatitis C?

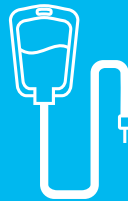


19
MILLION
people in Europe¹



185
MILLION
people worldwide¹

People most at risk of developing hepatitis C¹



Received a blood transfusion or blood products before screening began (1992).



Received a blood transfusion or dental treatment in countries with a high rate of hepatitis C infection.



Have a tattoo or body piercing.



Were infected with HIV, in particular men who have sex with other men.



Were born to a mother with hepatitis C.



Have been in prison.



Have injected drugs or shared needles with others.



Have had unprotected and traumatic sexual intercourse with multiple partners.

What are the symptoms?

People commonly experience no symptoms for many years, and many do not realise they are infected.³

Symptoms include tiredness, loss of appetite, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and jaundice.³



Are there different types of hepatitis C?



There are 7 different strains of the hepatitis C virus.¹

How is hepatitis C diagnosed?

Two standard blood tests are carried out⁴:

An antibody test confirms exposure to hepatitis C.

An RNA test searches for hepatitis C virus in the blood.



How is hepatitis C treated?



Until recent years, hepatitis C virus infection was treated with pegylated interferon alpha and ribavirin. Newer, directly acting antiviral medications have now become available.^{1,2}

The type and length of treatment depends on the type of hepatitis C virus causing the infection.

Is there a cure?

New medicines can cure more than 90% of people with hepatitis C.^{2,5}



References

1. World Health Organization. Guidelines for the screening, care and treatment of persons with hepatitis C infection. WHO Geneva 2014. Available from: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/hepatitis/hepatitis-c-guidelines/en/>. Last accessed: 12 February 2016.
2. Mohamed AA, et al. Hepatitis C virus: A global view. World J Hepatol. 2015;7:2676-2680.
3. World Health Organization. Hepatitis C. WHO Geneva 2015. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>. Last accessed: 12 February 2016.
4. European Association for the Study of the Liver. EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2015. J Hepatol. 2015;63:199-236.
5. McGonachie SM, et al. New direct-acting antivirals in hepatitis C therapy: a review of sofosbuvir, ledipasvir, daclatasvir, simeprevir, paritaprevir, ombitasvir and dasabuvir. Expert Rev Clin Pharmacol. 2016;9(2):287-302.